

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
UPSTAIRS MEETING ROOM, 1 AVENUE A, TURNERS FALLS,MA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 AT 6:00 PM

- The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

- **Finance Committee members present:** Christopher Menegoni; Frederic Bowman, Jennifer Audley, Chair, and John Hanold. Greg Garrison and Richard Widmer were absent.

- **Others present:** Town Administrator Steve Ellis, Public Works Superintendent Tom Bergeron, and resident Shauna Wallace

- The Chair announced that the meeting was being recorded by MCTV and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one else was recording the meeting.

Minutes

Finance Committee Moved:

To approve the minutes of August 21, 2019

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Review: Finance Committee procedures and expectations, 2nd draft

Ms. Audley distributed copies of her second draft of statements for committee use and for posting on the town website. There were no suggested changes beyond a re-ordering of some points..

Review and recommendations on Special Town Meeting Documents (October 2, 2019)

Mr. Ellis distributed an updated copy of the proposed Background Information, including a new Article 3 to implement the just-settled collective bargaining agreement with the UE Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 274. The Warrant, Motions and Appropriations sheets circulated earlier were not re-issued at this time. All of the negotiations for Montague's employees, through Fiscal Year 2022 are complete.

Articles 12: Mr. Bergeron distributed information on the street sweeper he proposes to buy, and explained his reasons for this amount at this time. The motion will be amended to include \$25,000 from the DPW Discretionary Fund as part of the funding source.

Finance Committee Moved:

To recommend approval of \$268,970 for a street sweeper, funded by \$243,970 from Free Cash and \$25,000 from the DPW Discretionary Fund.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Articles 1 – 3: Finance Committee Moved: To recommend approval of three collective bargaining agreements through FY2022.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Articles 4 – 6: Finance Committee Moved: To recommend approval of funding and sources to execute three collective bargaining agreements through FY2020, including positions not part of the bargaining units.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Articles 7 – 9: Finance Committee Moved: To recommend approval of payment of capital expenses for MCTV and unpaid bills from FY2019.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Article 10: We discussed the status of the Millers Falls Inflow & Infiltration study and the work recommended to substantially abate I&I costs billed from Erving (a part of the unpaid bills in Art.9).

Finance Committee Moved: To recommend approval of corrective action.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Article 11: Finance Committee Moved: To recommend approval of payment for repair/replacement of the roof of the Unity Park Fieldhouse

Vote: 3 In Favor 0 Opposed 1 Abstained

Articles 13 & 14: Finance Committee Moved: To recommend approval of a supplemental payment for repair/replacement of the awning of Town Hall, and to repair/replace the entrance to the Turners Falls Airport offices.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Articles 15 & 16: Finance Committee Moved: To recommend approval of authority of Assessors to negotiate Payments In Lieu Of Taxation (PILOT) with Solar Grid LLC and Kearsarge Turners Falls LLC covering personal property on solar arrays.

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Article 17: Finance Committee Moved: To recommend to Assessors and Selectboard that they enter into a Tax Agreement with FirstLight MA Hydro LLC to settle ongoing litigation on asset valuations for FY 2014 - 2021

Vote: 4 In Favor 0 Opposed 0 Abstained

Article 18: Article to agree on joint use of driveway serving the Turners Falls Fire Dept. and the DPW Garage .

No Finance Committee impact ,so no vote taken.

Other Business:

- Ms. Audley asked for suggested changes to FY2021 budget cycle, but none were suggested.
- Ms. Audley asked for an expression of interest in reviewing the practice of taxing to the levy limit. The consensus of the committee was that this had been discussed in earlier meetings to our satisfaction and we favored no change.
- The discussion of possible uses of released Overlay Surplus will occur after the Board of Assessors recommends an amount and the Selectboard determines it.

Agenda requests, minute-takers for upcoming meetings, unanticipated news received within 48 hours

There were no agenda requests.

Meeting was adjourned by 8:20PM

List of Documents and Exhibits

- Revised draft of Finance Committee procedures and expectations
- Draft Warrant for Special Town Meeting October 2 2019 (unrevised)
- Draft Motions for Special Town Meeting October 2 2019 (unrevised)
- Draft Background Information for Special Town Meeting October 2 2019 (revised)
- Draft Appropriations sheet for Special Town Meeting October 2 2019 (unrevised)